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I hereby certify that this PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as Express Mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, Box PATENT APPLICATION, Washington D.C. 20231, on:

Date: August 30, 2001

By *Shirley L. Davis*

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND  
TRADEMARK OFFICE**

**PATENT**

Applicants: Yakov Epshteyn et al.

Docket No.: SFI 718D1

Serial No.: Not yet assigned

Parent Art Unit: 1763

Filing Date: August 30, 2001

Parent Examiner: S. MacArthur

TITLE: METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR  
REMOVING A MATERIAL LAYER  
FROM A SUBSTRATE

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Commissioner for Patents  
**Box PATENT APPLICATION**  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Madam or Sir:

Prior to an examination of the above-identified divisional patent application, please enter the following Preliminary Amendment.

**In the Specification:**

On page 1, under the heading "Cross-References to Related Applications", please replace the paragraph directly below beginning on line 10 with the following paragraph: